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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Teng and Hardee

Serial No.: 09/108,673

Group Art Unit: 1636

Filed: July 1, 1998

Examiner: W. Sandals

#23/E
3ita
12/29/00

For: **COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR THE DELIVERY OF
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES VIA THE ALIMENTARY CANAL**

I, Paul K. Legaard, Registration No. 38,534 certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

On December 20, 2000


Paul K. Legaard Reg. No. 38,534

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Rejection mailed September 20, 2000 and the Advisory Action mailed November 27, 2000 along with the request for continued examination (RCE) filed herewith in connection with the above-identified patent application. Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, 6-11, 14-22, 28-31, 34 and 39, amend claims 1, 3, 5, 23-27 and 38, and add new claims 41-65 as follows.